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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//G-MOC//
TO AIG 4956

BT

UNCLAS //N16711//

SUBJ: PORT STATE CONTROL AND QUALSHIP 21

1. QUALSHIP 21 IS A NEW MARINE SAFETY INITIATIVE TO IDENTIFY HIGH-QUALITY FOREIGN-FLAGGED SHIPS, AND PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE QUALITY OPERATIONS. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, INCENTIVES FOR QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE. DETAILED QUALSHIP 21 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CAN BE FOUND ON THE HQ PSC WEB SITE AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. INCENTIVES: COMDT (G-MOC) WILL ISSUE A QUALSHIP 21 CERTIFICATE TO ALL ELIGIBLE VESSELS, AND IT WILL EXPIRE 2 YEARS AFTER THE VESSEL'S LAST ANNUAL PSC EXAM.

A. FREIGHT SHIPS: FREIGHT SHIPS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR A MAXIMUM OF 2-YEARS OF LIMITED PSC OVERSIGHT. ANNUAL EXAMS FOR QUALSHIP 21 FREIGHT SHIPS WILL BE REPLACED WITH BIENNIAL EXAMS (WITH NO MID-PERIOD EXAM), UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING CIRCUMSTANCES. FREIGHT SHIPS THAT ARE NOT QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS WILL REMAIN ON THE ANNUAL EXAM CYCLE.

B. TANK SHIPS: QUALSHIP 21 TANK SHIPS WILL HAVE THOROUGH PSC EXAMS EVERY 2 YEARS, AND LESS THOROUGH REINSPECTIONS ANNUALLY. IN GENERAL, THE SCOPE OF THE REINSPECTION SHALL BE THE SAME AS FOR THE BIENNIAL EXAM, BUT SHALL BE IN LESS DETAIL, UNLESS IT'S DETERMINED THAT MAJOR CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE LAST EXAM, OR CONDITIONS WARRANT AN EXPANDED PSC EXAM. THE MID-PERIOD EXAM SHOULD BE CONDUCTED BETWEEN THE TENTH AND FOURTEENTH MONTH FOR WHICH THE LOC/TVEL IS VALID. THOSE VESSELS THAT HOLD A QUALSHIP 21 CERTIFICATE BUT DO NOT RETURN TO THE U.S. FOR INSPECTION BETWEEN MONTHS TEN AND FOURTEEN SHALL RECEIVE A MIDPERIOD EXAM BETWEEN THE 15TH AND 18TH MONTH AFTER THEIR LAST PSC EXAM. QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS RETURNING AFTER MONTH EIGHTEEN MAY RECEIVE A MIDPERIOD OR A BIENNIAL EXAM, AT THE OWNER'S DISCRETION. IN ADDITION, QUALSHIP 21 TANK SHIPS ARRIVING WITH AN EXPIRED LOC/TVEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO BEGIN CARGO OPERATIONS PROVIDED NOT MORE THAN 90 DAYS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE LOC/TVEL EXPIRED.

C. PASSENGER VESSELS: QUALSHIP 21 PASSENGER VESSELS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR A REDUCTION IN PSC EXAMS. QUALSHIP 21 PASSENGER VESSELS WILL RECEIVE A QUALSHIP 21 CERTIFICATE AND WILL ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR OTHER INCENTIVES, AS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 2.D.

D. WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PORT AUTHORITIES (AAPA) TO LOCATE PORTS THAT MAY BE WILLING TO PROVIDE REDUCED PORT FEES FOR QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS IN THE FUTURE.

3. PSC TARGETING MATRIX: ALL VESSELS WILL CONTINUE TO BE SCREENED FOR BOARDING PRIORITIES. QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS WILL NOT BE ASSIGNED ANY POINTS FOR SHIP TYPE (COLUMN IV), NOR WILL THEY BE ASSIGNED POINTS FOR LACK OF A BOARDING WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 6 MONTHS (COLUMN III). ALL OTHER OVERRIDING CONDITIONS IN THE TARGETING MATRIX SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

4. EXIT CRITERIA: A VESSEL WILL NO LONGER BE ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVES DURING THE PERIOD OF THE QUALSHIP 21 CERTIFICATE, WHEN ANY OF THE EXIT CRITERIA LISTED BELOW ARE OBSERVED. COTPS SHALL NOTIFY G-MOC-2 VIA E-MAIL AT FLDR-G-MOC@COMDT.USCG.MIL WHEN A QUALSHIP VESSEL TRIGGERS ANY OF THESE CRITERIA:

A. THE VESSEL IS DETAINED, AND DETERMINED TO BE SUBSTANDARD, IN U.S. WATERS.

B. THE VESSEL HAS A MARINE VIOLATION, MORE THAN 1 PAID NOTICE OF VIOLATION CASE (TICKETS), OR A REPORTABLE MARINE CASUALTY THAT MEETS

THE DEFINITION OF A SERIOUS MARINE INCIDENT OR MAJOR MARINE CASUALTY. C. THE VESSEL IS FOUND WITH SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES (E.G., ARE CONSIDERED SUCH A SERIOUS NATURE THAT THEY MAY WARRANT THE DETENTION OF THE VESSEL) THAT ARE NOT BEING MONITORED BY THE VESSEL'S FLAG STATE OR CLASS SOCIETY, ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE FLAG STATE, OR THE VESSEL FAILS TO REPORT A HAZARDOUS CONDITION (AS DEFINED IN 33CFR160.203) PRIOR TO ARRIVAL. IF THE VESSEL IS WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS IMPOSED BY THE FLAG STATE OR CLASS SOCIETY TO CORRECT DEFICIENCIES, THE VESSEL WILL NOT LOSE ELIGIBILITY FOR INCENTIVES.

D. THE VESSEL TRANSFERS CLASS TO A TARGETED CLASS SOCIETY.

E. THE VESSEL CHANGES ITS REGISTRY TO A FLAG STATE THAT HAS A DETENTION RATIO MORE THAN 1/3 OF THE OVERALL U. S. DETENTION RATIO, OR TO A FLAG STATE THAT DOES NOT HAVE AT LEAST 10 DISTINCT VESSEL ARRIVALS IN EACH OF THE LAST THREE YEARS. REFER TO THE CG ANNUAL PSC REPORT AT THE WEB ADDRESS NOTED AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE FOR DETAILED FLAG STATE INFORMATION.

5. RENEWING OF ELIGIBILITY: RENEWAL OF ELIGIBILITY IS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS AS INITIAL CERTIFICATION, INCLUDING THE REQUIREMENT TO HAVE COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL, U. S. PSC EXAM WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS. THEREFORE, VESSEL OWNERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REQUEST A PSC EXAM FROM THE LOCAL COTP DURING U. S. PORT VISITS DURING THE 23D AND 24TH MONTH OF THE TERM OF THEIR QUALSHIP 21 CERTIFICATE.

6. G-MOC WILL COMMUNICATE THE LIST OF QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS IN TWO WAYS. FIRST, A VESSEL OF PARTICULAR INTEREST NOTICE WILL BE ENTERED IN MSIS FOR EACH QUALSHIP 21 VESSEL. SECONDLY, THE QUALSHIP 21 VESSEL LIST WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE PORT STATE CONTROL WEB SITE:

WWW.USCG.MIL/HQ/GM/PSC/QUALSHIP/QUALSHIPPG.HTM

7. COTP ACTION: ALL VESSELS WILL BE SCREENED FOR BOARDING PRIORITIES AS BEFORE. QUALSHIP 21 VESSELS WILL BE IDENTIFIED IN MSIS THROUGH A VESSEL OF PARTICULAR INTEREST (VPI) NOTICE. ANNUAL EXAMS OF QUALSHIP 21 FREIGHT SHIPS WILL BE ELIMINATED (PARA 2.A), AND TANK SHIP EXAMS WILL BE REDUCED AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2.B. COTPS SHALL NOTIFY G-MOC WHEN AWARE OF VESSELS TRIGGERING EXIT CRITERIA AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 7.

8. MSIS DOCUMENTATION: QUALSHIP 21 BIENNIAL FREIGHT SHIP EXAMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE DOCUMENTED IN MSIS AS ANNUAL FREIGHT SHIP EXAMS. QUALSHIP 21 TANK SHIP BIENNIAL AND MID-PERIOD EXAMS WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE DOCUMENTED IN MSIS AS BEFORE. PASSENGER VESSEL EXAMS SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO BE DOCUMENTED IN MSIS AS BEFORE (E.G., INSPECTION TYPE "COC/CVE" FOR BOTH INITIAL AND ANNUAL EXAMS). PSAR NARRATIVES SHALL DESCRIBE THE ACTUAL TYPE OF EXAM CONDUCTED (E.G., BIENNIAL Q21 FREIGHT SHIP EXAM).

9. DOCUMENTS: THIS CHANGE IS SEPARATE FROM THE QUALSHIP 21 INITIATIVE AND AFFECTS ALL FOREIGN-FLAGGED TANK VESSELS AND PASSENGER VESSELS, NOT JUST THOSE RECEIVING QUALSHIP 21 CERTIFICATES. THE DOCUMENTATION ISSUED TO FOREIGN-FLAGGED TANK VESSELS AND PASSENGER VESSELS WILL CHANGE. CURRENTLY, TANK VESSELS EITHER RECEIVE A TANK VESSEL EXAMINATION LETTER (SUBCHAPTER D CARGOES) OR A LETTER OF COMPLIANCE (HAZARDOUS BULK CARGOES), AND PASSENGER VESSELS RECEIVE A CONTROL VERIFICATION EXAMINATION LETTER. ALL FOREIGN-FLAGGED TANK VESSELS AND PASSENGER VESSELS WILL RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE (COC), WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT. THE COC WILL BE RELEASED NLT 30 APRIL 2001. IN THE INTERIM, ALL TVEL'S AND LOC'S SHALL BE ISSUED FOR A 2-YEAR PERIOD. PASSENGER VESSELS SHOULD RECEIVE CERTIFICATES VALID FOR ONE YEAR, AND THE CURRENT EXAM CYCLE (ANNUAL EXAM W/QUARTERLY RINS) WILL NOT CHANGE. DETAILS ABOUT THE CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WILL BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPCOR.

10. MORE INFORMATION: PLEASE DIRECT GENERAL QUESTIONS TO G-MOC-2 AT

(202) 267-2978, OR G-MOC'S PUBLIC MAIL FOLDER AS LISTED IN PARAGRAPH 7. IN ADDITION, THE PSC WEB SITE HAS A PAGE DEDICATED TO QUALSHIP 21 INFORMATION, AND CAN BE FOUND AT THIS ADDRESS: WWW.USCG.MIL/HQ/G-M/PSC/PSC.HTM

11. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED, AND PUBLISHED AT THE ABOVE WEB ADDRESS.

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